

Appln. No. 10/076,232
Amendment dated April 26, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed December 27, 2006

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition per the indications in the Advisory Action mailed March 28, 2006.

Claims 1 through 6, 9 through 18, 20 through 25, and 27 through 31 remain in this application. Claims 7, 8, 19, and 26 have been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn or added.

Claims 1 through 3, 5 10 through 12, and 31 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being "anticipated by" the Mano reference.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the requirements of claim 6, which was indicated as being allowable, and therefore claim 1 is submitted to be in condition for allowance, as well as the claims that depend from claim 1.

Claim 4 has been amended to include the requirements of claims 1 and 3, and in this independent form claim 4 is submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 has been amended to include the requirements of claim 1, and in this independent form claim 9 is submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 31 has been amended to include the requirements of claim 8, which was indicated as being allowable over the prior art, and therefore claim 31 is submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 through 3, 5, 10 through 12, and 31 is respectfully requested.

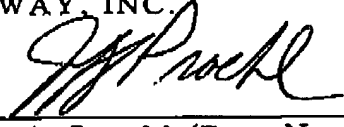
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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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